

# GOD'S UNCOMPROMISING NEGATIVES

By Bernard Schneider

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning"

(James 1:17). In one way God is very different from so many people we know, in that He always means what He says, and always does what He has promised to do. With Him there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. He does not say one thing and mean another. He can be absolutely depended upon. There are people these days who say that God did not mean what He said when



BERNARD SCHNEIDER

He talked about sin, and hell, and judgment, but any one believing such talk is taking an awful chance, for God has never yet been caught in a lie, no, and never will be.

Now I want to bring a little study to you from God's Word concerning some of the things which men believe but which God flatly denies as not being so. Before we go into this, I would like to have you concentrate upon this one great truth, and that is that when God Almighty says "no," He means "no."

**I. "There is none righteous, no not one" (Romans 3:10).**

This verdict seems to come as a bolt out of a clear sky, "There is none righteous, no not one." In v. 20 of the same chapter the Holy Spirit says that by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in God's sight. In other words, no person will ever get right with God by doing good, by treating others right, by trying to do what is right in the eyes of the world. No matter how good a man may be, it can in no wise meet the demands of a Holy God. Most people do not like this truth and disagree. But there is no use in disagreeing with God Almighty. When He says "no," and "none," He means just that.

The great tragedy of beguiled humanity today is that most people have the idea that although they have sinned some in their time, they also are doing some good deeds, and that somehow this doing of good is going to make up for the wrong. Somehow they expect to come out on the right side of things on the other side of death. But this is an awful insult to God Who sent His beloved Son into the world and to the cross to save man from sin. This sort of idea is Satan's gospel, by which he keeps millions asleep and at ease, until it is too late. With this idea he proceeds and succeeds to drug the consciences of multitudes so that they worry little about the demands of our righteous and holy God, and they doze into hell. Says the apostle: "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of

this world has blinded the minds of them that believe not" (II Cor. 4:3-4).

It always reminds me of what the missionary to India related he saw there on one of his trips to a neighboring village. One day he saw a group of women at work in the harvest fields, and beside the road under a shade tree he saw their babies, all of them apparently sound asleep and contented. This seemed so strange to him that he called to one of the mothers and asked her how it was that all those children were so quiet. The perspiring mother answered him that their employers would not permit them to look after their babies during the day, and that they could not stand their piteful crying. So each morning before leaving for work they would put a very small piece of opium under one of their finger nails and then let the baby suck the finger on their way to work. This would put them sound asleep for the day, but would make them double fretful at the end of the day.

In just such a way Satan is busy keeping men's consciences asleep with spiritual drugs, and the worst and most deadly of them all is this teaching that if you make up for your sins with doing some good, you will be all right with God. God says there is none righteous, no not one, and, again, "By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight." There is no use fooling and beating about the bush, God says "no," and you cannot argue God out of this.

**II. "There is no respect of persons with God" (Romans 2:11).**

In Rom. 3:23 we are told that there is no difference, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Some people seem to think that their souls are charmed, that everything is going to be all right with them because of who they are. The trouble is that they are comparing God with weak, sinful man.

In this world it will help you much if you are the son or close relative of some one in a high position. In that case you have a "pull," and it helps. But be certain that there is no earthly pull with God. You may live in a Christian home. Your father may be a fine Christian minister. You may be a member of the best lodge in town. You may give \$1000 to the poor. You may belong to the Methodist, the Baptist, the Brethren, or any other church here, and still God says you are lost unless you are born again. He is no respecter of persons, He will treat them all alike, and there is no difference, all have sinned.

So many people think that because they are civilized and live in a Christian country, and perhaps belong to some church, that they are Christians, but not so in the sight of God. I have heard of a conversation between a refined American lady and a young Christian man from Korea who was on the train which would bring him to a Christian school here in Amer-

ica. As travelers are often doing, they were telling each other where they were going, etc. When it came the turn for our young friend, he simply told that he was on his way to school to prepare himself to be a missionary. "Now, missions is one thing I don't believe in," said our fine lady. Rather surprised the young man said: "Why, I thought that all Christians believed in missions." Upon this the lady answered: "But I am not a Christian." With more surprise the young man looked sharply at the lady and stated: "Why, lady, then you are a heathen." The lady of course was very much insulted and with fire in her eyes she shook her finger at him and informed him: "I want you to know young man, that here in America we have no heathen." This proved too much for the young foreigner and in a meek voice he said: "You have to forgive me lady; in my country we have only the two ways, the Christian way and the heathen way, but if there is a third way, I would be glad to know about it." But there is no third way. Every one who is not born again is lost, is a heathen, even though a civilized one. Listen to what God says: "Which were born, not of blood," that means that you cannot inherit salvation from your parents; "nor of the will of the flesh," which means that you cannot earn your salvation; "nor of the will of man," which means that no preacher, priest, nor pope can give you salvation; "but of God," which means that only by being born again can you become a Christian. We all have to come the same way to God, on our knees. You may argue this with me, but you cannot argue this with God; He says that He is no respecter of persons.

### III. There is no other Savior but Christ (Acts 4: 12; Jn. 14:6).

God says that there is no other name under all heaven whereby we must be saved. Christ is the only way. Christ said that no one would come to the Father except by Him. Many are the folks who think that there is no special need to accept Christ. They think that if you believe in God, and live "right," it will be all right. But I have to tell you that that is a very much mistaken idea, either that or God lied to us. Either that or Christ lied to us too, for we are told by Him that **no one** could come even to the Father except through Him. Christ ought to know—He came from heaven.

Perhaps some one here may feel very much like taking the matter up with me and ask me if I can tell you why we must accept Jesus Christ to be saved. You say that you cannot see why you cannot just believe in God and try to live the best you can, and be saved. What is the need of Christ? Well, I believe I can help you there. Let me first quote a well known passage. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life."

God so loved the world but you may be sure that He loved His Son too. And you may also be certain that if there had been some other way by which God could have saved man from his doom, God would have spared His Son. Think it out for yourself. Father, you have a son. You love that son more than any-


thing else on earth. Now there is a debt hanging over you. You cannot pay it. The creditor gets impatient. Finally he says: "You either pay, or I will take your son and sell him to cover that debt." And suppose that this were possible, as it has been in some countries in times past. Let me ask you this, if there were any other way under heaven whereby you could pay that debt, other than by your son, you would take that way, wouldn't you? So God saw man in his sin, hopelessly and helplessly lost. There was no way out, other than through a sacrifice, worthy to cover the whole of man's transgression. So Christ left His heavenly home and offered Himself on the cross. There was no other way. "Without the shedding of blood there is no remission." Now, when the Lord tells us that this is the only way, bought at such a price by an all-knowing God, shall we still persist in some other way? The very suggestion of it is an insult to the unspeakable love, and to the intelligence of our God. There is no other way. Jesus said: "Except ye believe that I am He, ye shall die in your sins."

### IV. "Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out" (Jn. 6:37).

To my understanding, this is just about the greatest promise in the Bible. It means that if you come to Christ, He will not turn you away no matter who and what you are.

I ask you to forgive me for making a personal reference. But to me this promise has meant more sometimes than all the rest of the Bible put together. Before I was saved, I lived in an awful wilful life of sin, and since I have been saved, I have passed through some dark hours on account of them. The devil knows how to parade all your past before your eyes, and make you doubt the possibility of your own salvation, if he can. At such hours, all my old sins would come up in order, and I could see all the worst of them. Then the devil would whisper to me: "Look at them, you know you don't have a chance with God." I remember one time when it almost got the best of me. Some one was asking an elderly lady what she thought of a man who would do such and such a thing. I held my breath until the answer came, for I had been guilty of that very thing before I became a Christian. Then came the answer. "I believe that a man who would do that is about the lowest thing on earth." Like lightning it struck me, and it went deep to my heart. And then came the devil's old whisper again: "Look here, young fellow, you see what folks think of you, you know you haven't got a chance with God. He will give you up to your punishment." It almost drove me to despair, but sud-

**THINK IT OVER.**



**If the Lord had no one else to depend on for spreading His gospel but me, how many people would know it?**

denly by some unseen guide my mind stopped on these words of Jesus: "Him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out." Yes, God will receive me, in spite of my sins, in spite of my past. He will do more, He will wash away my sins and blot out my record, because I have come to Jesus for salvation. I was led to realize the full meaning of that promise, and have never doubted my salvation since. When the old devil comes with his whispers, I simply refer him to that verse, and he takes his leave.

Friends, may I make the application of this verse to you? Perhaps some of you have had visions of your sins, and they scare you. But don't let that keep you away from God's throne of mercy. You say that you are a sinner; then you may come to Jesus, for, "This is a faithful saying, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief." You say that you are lost; that is the more reason why you should come, for Jesus said that He "came to seek and to save that which was lost." Yes, He will receive you, and He is able to save to the uttermost. These words came from the lips of the Savior of man, "Him that cometh I will in no wise cast out." Only come, come and take Him at His word, and you will find that it does not take a coming sinner and a seeking Savior long to get together.

---